THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Discussions relating to the process of finding a negotiated political solution to the Kampuchean problem have been going on between various countries and parties to the conflict for over one year. India has taken a keen interest in this process. While no concrete proposal has been prepared or suggested by us, we have made known our willingness to contribute in whatever way we can for finding a solution. This has been widely appreciated.

Agreement to import of French technology in the Indian Railways

3263. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any agreement with France during the recent visit to India by the French President in regard to import of French technology in the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any other country has been approached for advanced technology in the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Memorandum of understanding/protocol was signed with Government of France, USSR and Australian National Railway Commission for Cooperation to mutual benefit on matters including technical assistance in the field of Railways.

Illiteracy in rural areas of the country

3264. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the illiteracy ratio in the rural areas of the country; as on date;

(b) what is the total number of illiterates both male and female, separately in the rural areas in the country at the end of 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1986; and

(c) by when the constitutional directive in this regard is expected to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P SHAHI): (a) Illiteracy Literacy ratio in the rural areas of the country is 70.4:29.6. The figure relates to 1981 Census Report.

(b) All India Literacy figures on head count basis are obtained through the Census Reports. In-between figures are arrived at on the basis of methodological projections. The breakdown of number of illiterates in rural areas in the past census reports are as under:

No. of illiterates in Rural Areas

Census year	Illiterates in Million		
	Male	Female	Total
1961 .	130.2	161.7	291.9
1971 .	249·3	185.5	334.8
1981 .	153.9	203.2	357.1

(c) The Government is actively seized with the task of eradication of illiteracy within a prescribed time frame and have accordingly set up

National Literacy Mission Authority with a time frame of providing functional literacy to 80 million adult illiterates by 1995. In the meantime, with improvements in the socio-economic environment in the country and rise in the general awareness towards usefulness of literacy, it is expected that the literacy rate in the country will pick up to an appreciable level. It may not, however, be possible to give a definite time schedule as numerous factors work for and against achievement of the target.

Inter-regional transfers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan teachers on medical grounds

3265. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 1501 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th March, 1989 and state:

(a) what is the interpretation of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan regarding the term 'terminal illness';

(b) whether all the 23 teachers who were allowed inter-regional transfers before 20th November, 1988 on compassionate grounds are covered by the said interpretation of the term;

(c) if so, what are the details of illness in each case; and

(d) the details of illness of teachers whose cases have been advocated by All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association after 20th November, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P SHAHI): (a) The term "terminal illness" is intended to cover cases where chances of survival are less.

(b) No Sir. Upto 20-11-88 the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan effected transfers on various grounds, including medical grounds. Therefore, upto 20-11-88 it was not necessary for each transfer made on medical grounds to be covered by 'terminal illness'.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 12 cases of illness were taken up by All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers' Association. However, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan rules governing recognition of association of employees require that the Association shall not espouse or support the cause of the individual employee (s) of the Sangathan relating to services matters. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan will consider these cases on merits.

Setting up of more Hostel in Delhi

3266. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up ten more five star hotels and 20 two-three star hotels in Delhi in the near future;

(b) if so, the sites selected and details thereof;

(c) by when these hotels are expected to be ready;

(d) whether there is any proposal to return erstwhile Akbar Hotel building of NDMC to ITDC and revive the hotel in view of the increasing tourist rush; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) It has been estimated that by 1991 Delhi would need 4000 additional rooms in different star category of hotels.